

A PERSIMMON GALL MITE, ERIOPHYES THEOSPYRI (K.)¹

(ACARINA: ERIOPHYIDAE)

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SYNONYM: ACERIA THEOSPYRI KEIFER, 1960:7.

ERIOPHYES THEOSPYRI, NEWKIRK AND KEIFER, 1971:1.

INTRODUCTION: A PERSIMMON GALL MITE, ERIOPHYES THEOSPYRI (K.) WAS ORIGINALLY DESCRIBED BY KEIFER IN 1960 FROM THE LEAVES OF PERSIMMON COLLECTED FROM GREENBELT, MARYLAND. SINCE THAT TIME IT HAS BEEN COLLECTED NUMEROUS TIMES IN FLORIDA AND SOUTH GEORGIA. IT WILL PROBABLY BE FOUND TO OCCUR IN THE COASTAL STATES FROM FLORIDA TO MARYLAND. YOUNG LEAVES ARE ATTACKED, WITH GALLS EVIDENT ON THE UPPER SURFACE AND THE OPENING ON THE LOWER SURFACE (FIG. 1).

HOST: IT APPEARS TO BE HOST SPECIFIC TO PERSIMMON, DIOSPYROS VIRGINIANA L.

DESCRIPTION: THE FEMALE IS ABOUT 160 μ LONG, 45-50 μ THICK, WORMLIKE, AND LIGHT YELLOWISH WHITE. SHIELD DESIGN OBSCURE, MEDIAN LINE SLIGHTLY INDICATED POSTERIORLY (FIG. 2). DORSAL TUBERCLES 24 μ APART; DORSAL SETAE 35 μ LONG, DIVERGING POSTERIORLY. MICROTUBERCLES ELONGATE-ELLIPTICAL, FLATTENED, CLOSE-SET, AND TOUCHING REAR RING MARGIN (FIG. 3). FEMALE GENITALIA 10 μ LONG, 18 μ WIDE; COVERFLAP WITH 6 WEAK, LONGITUDINAL RIBS, SOMEWHAT DIAGONALLY CONVERGING FROM EACH SIDE (FIG. 4). THE FEATHER CLAWS ARE 4-RAYED (FIG. 5).



FIG. 1. INFESTED PERSIMMON LEAF.

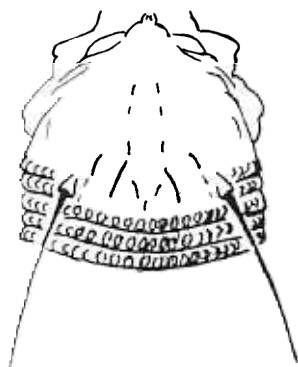


FIG. 2. DORSAL SHIELD



FIG. 4. FEMALE GENITALIA (AFTER KEIFER)

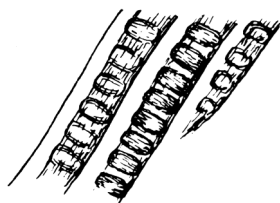


FIG. 3. MICROTUBERCLES (AFTER KEIFER).



FIG. 5. FEATHERCLAW (AFTER KEIFER).

LITERATURE CITED:

KEIFER, H. H. 1960. ERIOPHYID STUDIES. CALIF. DEPT. AGR. B-1:1-20.

NEWKIRK, R. A., AND H. H. KEIFER. 1971. ERIOPHYID STUDIES. CALIF. DEPT. AGR. C-5:1-5.

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